

Serial No.: 09/490,038

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B1 Sub C1 heating the mixture in the absence of a reduction catalyst to a temperature greater than 100° C to cause a reaction between said first starting material and said second starting material.

7. (Twice Amended) Carboxylic acid and amino acid or amino acid condensate reactants manufactured by a method comprising the steps of:

B2 providing first starting material, said first starting material being carboxylic acids;

providing second starting material, said second starting material being one of amino acids and amino acid condensates;

mixing said first starting material and said second starting material in a high-pressure withstanding container under an aqueous system; and

heating the mixture in the absence of a reduction catalyst to a temperature greater than 100° C to cause a reaction between said first starting material and said second starting material.

#### REMARKS

In the February 13, 2002 Office Action, claims 1-7, and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a). No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

#### *Status of Claims and Amendments*

In response, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 7 to distinguish them from the prior art. Thus, claims 1-7 and 11 are pending, with claims 1 and 7 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages that begin with the caption "**VERSION WITH**